



The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

Communicator

Reminder!!!
My SARC
membership
renewal is due

November 2014

Special Interest?

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QRM

News You Can Lose
and Much More!

The Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club

November 2014



At The Last Meeting...

SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Minutes of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club General Meeting

October 8, 2014

Introduction

The meeting was brought to order by President John Brodie VA7XB at 1900 hr. New member (and soon to be licensed) Alastair Gardiner was welcomed. Later, near the end of the business meeting, new ham Jim Thompson VE7JYT was also congratulated and welcomed.

Committee Reports

Christmas Party

Jinty Reid VA7JMR reviewed plans for the Christmas Party at the Kalmar Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81st Ave between 11:30 am and 2 pm on Dec. 6th. Donations for door prizes are needed and for this purpose Jinty has prepared request and thank-you letters for potential donors (see John VA7XB if you need one or more). The program has not been finalized, but entertainment is being considered. The invitation will be extended to SEPAR members later, depending on SARC demand, as the capacity of the Kalmar meeting room is quite limited.

Fall/Winter Meeting Program

At the Nov 12th meeting, Joe VE7TOL will give a presentation on Raspberry Pi. The Christmas party will be in lieu of the normal December meeting. On January 14th, Ron Casey VE7VTA will give a talk on emergency communication in the context of the terrorist threat.

Financial

With Treasurer Scott Hawrelak VE7HA absent, no financial report was available. The membership was reminded that annual dues are now payable either by PayPal on the web, or by cash or cheque. Sleeve patches are also available at a cost of \$4 each or 3 for \$10. John VA7XB reported that application has now been made for a 2015 Surrey Community grant of \$650 to cover Field Day expenses, and that a request for payment of the 2014 grant has also been made.

Membership

John Schouten VE7TI has created a database for membership information, to include a head-and-shoulders photo image. Those present were asked to complete the revised membership form to confirm personal information, to update interests and talents and to authorize the specific use of this information.

Members were asked to have their photos taken by Stan Williams VA7NF at the coffee break or at the end of the meeting. Sheldon VA7XNL requested that the membership list plus photos be made available so members can get to know each other.

Task Assignments

Task leaders are still sought for the following positions: a) Field Day b) Programs c) Cruise-in & Raffle. Later, Al Peterson VA7ALZ kindly volunteered to take on responsibility for the Cruise-in & Raffle.

Website

Hui Yee VE7YXG announced that the new webmaster is Howard Ticzon VA7HTZ. Thanks were expressed to Hui for his many years of diligent service in managing the website and to Howard for taking this on.

Repeater

George Merchant VE7QH stated that the repeater was working well with no issues reported. Brett Garrett VE7GM noted that the "signal check" feature did not seem to be working. George will look into it.

Net

Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV reported no net issues.

Special Interest Groups

- **Contesting Group:** Brett VE7GM stated that the contest season has started with available stations VE7FO and VA7XB planning to host contests every month. A meeting to formally launch the year's activity will be organized shortly for the 12+ members who have expressed interest.
- **CW Group:** This group does not yet exist but it is the Executives' recommendation that those interested in becoming proficient in CW should "self-organize", i.e. get together, develop a plan and motivate each other using the suggestions provided in Brett's comprehensive article in the October Communicator. John VA7XB asked that those so-interested advise him by email (va7xb@rac.ca).
- **Satellite Group:** This group also does not yet exist, but following up on suggestions made at the Field Day debriefing meeting, John VA7XB has offered to start a group interested in getting a tracking device and radios operational for satellite communication, with a view to (possibly) evolving to moonbounce. Those interested should contact him at va7xb@rac.ca.

On The Cover...

Vacuum Tubes or 'valves' as they are known in some places hold a mystique for many members of the Amateur Radio Community. The 'tube' is a device that controls electric current through a vacuum in a sealed container. Vacuum tubes mostly rely on thermionic emission of electrons from a hot filament or a cathode heated by the filament.

The simplest vacuum tube, the diode, contains only an electron emitting cathode and an electron collecting plate. Current can only flow in one direction through the device between the two electrodes, as electrons emitted by the hot cathode travel through the tube and are collected by the anode. Adding control grids within the tube allows control of the current between the two electrodes. Tubes with grids can be used as electronic amplifiers, rectifiers, electronic switches, oscillators, and for other purposes.

Invented in about 1910, vacuum tubes were a basic component for electronics throughout the first half of the 20th century. Although some applications had counterparts using earlier technologies such as the spark-gap transmitter or mechanical computers, it was the invention of the vacuum tubes that made these technologies widespread and practical. In the forties the invention of semiconductor devices made it possible to produce solid-state devices, which are smaller, more efficient, more reliable, more durable, and cheaper than tubes. Hence, in the '50s and '60s, solid-state devices such as transistors, gradually replaced tubes. However there are still a few applications for which tubes are preferred to semiconductors, for example high frequency amplifiers and high end audio devices.

New Business

Fred Reichstein VE7MPI passed around a photo of a mobile 40m vertical antenna setup that is suitable for use at a base station by those members who do not have room for full size HF antennas.

Joe Zaccaria VE7TOL requested specs on the construction, and Fred offered to do an article on his antenna for the Communicator.

There being no other new business, the meeting broke for coffee then reassembled for the featured presentation.

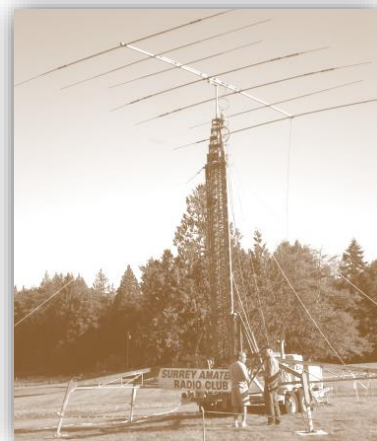
Presentation by John White VA7JW

John outlined the features of HF Terrain Assessment (HFTA) and MicroDem software and how he has used it to graphically illustrate propagation patterns from his home QTH and from the North Shore, both of which are constrained by mountainous terrain to the north and lesser obstacles in other directions.

John was thanked for his excellent presentation, which will be available shortly by link from the SARC website.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2100 hr.

~ Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV, SARC Secretary



The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly except July and August for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.



November 2014



The Contest Group Update

Brett Garrett VE7GM

"The SARC executive decided that for 2014-2015 they would like to change from an Operator Training program to a Contest Group"

This note is an invitation for you to join a newly forming SARC Contest Group. If you are interested in pursuing contesting in a group environment this may be of interest to you. Activities will provide practice in both contest radio operation and station management. If you are not interested in participating in contesting with others, feel free to delete this note now; sorry for the interruption to your day.

As some of you will already know, the SARC executive decided that for 2014-2015 they would like to change from an Operator Training program to a Contest Group (special interest group of club members). The change in focus would reflect that fact that we believe we have identified the current members who are seriously interested in contesting, and these members have achieved a sufficient level of competence that we no longer need the 'Get Your Feet Wet' or formal training programs. However, there is still strong executive team support for continuing the development of contest skills with members who are interested. Additionally, new members will be

welcomed at any time and will be "shown the ropes" by volunteer members of the group.

The nature of the SARC Contest Group is to be a relatively informal subset of the membership with no leadership. I (Brett VE7GM) have undertaken responsibility for the administrative task of organising the start-up of the group.

At this point there are few details, as the details will be developed by consensus of the members. I don't expect there will be any formal 'attendance' requirements at the contests, so if you are interested but don't have a lot of time, you can still be a member. The focus, however, will be on enhancing skills by gaining practice and learning from others, so the benefits will come from active participation.

Membership will remain open, so if you don't have the time or interest now, you can always change your mind later.

If you are interested, all you need to do now is reply letting me know that you would like to remain on the list. Anyone

Sheldon Ward VA7XNL polishing up his skills in the CQ WW DX contest (RTTY) at VA7XB's station, and giving the thumbs-up for confirmed contacts with Saudi Arabia 7Z1SJ, United Arab Emirates A65BP and South Africa ZS6J. Europe and the Middle East stations were workable most of Saturday and Indonesia and Malaysia Sunday until early afternoon when the DX action dried up.



who does not ask to be on the list will not be bothered further.

After I have what I believe is a reasonably complete list of those who are interested, I'll organize a "kick-off" meeting and we can have an open discussion to decide the details and how we'd like to proceed. If you've sent me a "count me in" reply by then, I'll ensure you are invited to that meeting.

If you are interested, consult the calendar on page 17 for contest dates. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to participate and what times. We will try to accommodate you

Thanks for reading this far. I hope to see many or most of you at future contest sessions.

~ Brett VE7GM

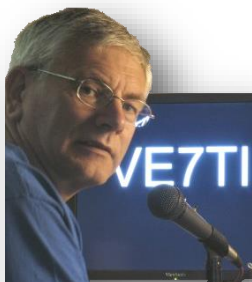
CQ WW DX Contest confirmed countries...



Many hams print QSL cards to verify a contact. Unusual QSL cards are often collected because they are from a rare DX entity or because of their content.



November 2014



The Contest Contender

For beginners... A look at the basics

While we have an active Contest Group at SARC, there are some within our membership who may not have been exposed to this activity. It is probably one of the most realistic scenarios for emergency operations training and a skill that any operator who has an interest in emergency preparedness should experience.

each competition define the [amateur radio bands](#), the mode of communication that may be used, and the kind of information that must be exchanged. The contacts made during the contest contribute to a score by which stations are ranked. Contest sponsors publish the results in magazines and on web sites.

provide opportunities for amateur radio operators to practice their message handling skills, used for routine or emergency communications across long distances. Over time, the number and variety of radio contests has increased, and many amateur radio operators today pursue the sport as their primary amateur radio activity.

There is no international authority or governance organization for this sport. Each competition is sponsored separately and has its own set of rules.

Contesting Basics

Radio contests are principally sponsored by amateur radio societies, radio clubs, or radio enthusiast magazines. These organizations publish the rules for the event, collect the operational logs from all stations that operate in the event, cross-check the logs to generate a score for each station, and then publish the results in a magazine, in a society journal, or on a web site. Because the competitions are between stations licensed in the Amateur Radio Service (with the exception of certain contests which sponsor awards for shortwave listeners), which prohibits the use of radio frequencies for pecuniary interests, there are no professional radio contests or professional testers, and any awards granted by the contest sponsors are typically limited to paper certificates, plaques, or trophies.



Brett VE7GM

Contesting (also known as [radiosport](#)) is a competitive activity pursued by [amateur radio operators](#). In a contest, an [amateur radio station](#), which may be operated by an individual or a team, seeks to contact as many other amateur radio stations as possible in a given period of time and exchange information. Rules for

Contesting grew out of other amateur radio activities in the 1920s and 1930s. As trans-oceanic communications with amateur radio became more common, competitions were formed to challenge stations to make as many contacts as possible with amateur radio stations in other countries. Contests were also formed to

During a radio contest, each station attempts to establish two-way contact with other licensed amateur radio stations and exchange information specific to that contest. The information exchanged could include a [signal report](#), a name, the U.S. state or Canadian province in which the station is located, the geographic zone in which the station is located, the [Maidenhead grid locator](#) in which the station is located, the age of the operator, or an incrementing serial number. For each contact, the radio operator must correctly receive the call sign of the other station, as well as the information in the "exchange", and record this data, along with the time of the contact and the band or frequency that was used to make the contact, in a log.

A contest score is computed based on a formula defined for that contest. A typical formula assigns some number of points for each contact, and a "multiplier" based on some aspect of the exchanged information. The rules for most contests held on the [VHF](#) amateur radio bands in North America assign a new multiplier for each new Maidenhead grid locator in the log, rewarding the competitors that make contacts with other stations in the most locations. Many [HF](#) contests reward stations with a new multiplier for contacts with stations in each country - often based on the "entities" listed on the [DXCC country list](#) maintained by the [American Radio Relay League](#) ("ARRL"). Depending on the rules for a particular contest, each multiplier may count once on each radio band or only once during the contest, regardless of the radio band on which the multiplier was first earned. The points earned for each contact can be a fixed amount per contact, or can vary based on a geographical relationship such as whether or not the communications crossed a continental or political boundary. Some contests, such as the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge, award points that are scaled to the distance separating the two stations. Most contests held in Europe on the VHF and

microwave bands award 1 point per kilometer of distance between the stations making each contact.

After they are received by the contest sponsor, logs are checked for accuracy. Points can be deducted or credit or multipliers lost if there are errors in the log data for a given contact. Depending on the scoring formula used, the resulting scores of any particular contest can be either a small number of points or in the millions of points. Most contests offer multiple entry categories, and declare winners in each category. Some contests also declare regional winners for specific geographic subdivisions, such as continents, countries, U.S. states, or Canadian provinces.

The most common entry category is the single operator category and variations thereof, in which only one individual operates a radio station for the entire duration of the contest. Subdivisions of the single operator category are often made based on the highest power output levels used during the contest, such as a [QRP](#) category for single operator stations using no more than five watts output power, or a High Power category that allows stations to transmit with as much output power as their license permits. Multi-operator categories allow for teams of individuals to operate from a single station, and may either allow for a single radio transmitter or several to be in use simultaneously on different amateur radio bands. Many contests also offer team or club competitions in which the scores of multiple radio stations are combined and ranked.

If the foregoing has raised your interest in contesting and you would like to experience a contest first-hand, several members are willing to open their stations for you to give it a try. Contact a member of the Club Executive or send an email to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

~ John VE7TI

The points earned for each contact can be a fixed amount per contact, or can vary based on a geographical relationship such as whether or not the communications crossed a continental or political boundary

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California QSO Party

Because of the large Amateur population base and its proximity to BC, it is an ideal contest for beginners as anyone with a modest HF setup can score a good number of contacts.

The California QSO Party (CQP) is held every year on the first weekend of October.

The first CQP took place in 1966. Since 1974, the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) has sponsored CQP. CQP has traditionally opened the annual contest season by providing an opportunity for contesters to prepare for the ARRL November Sweepstakes since the format is similar.

Stations outside of California, worldwide, work stations in California only. The 58 counties of CA are the multipliers. California stations work all stations in or out of CA. The 50 US states and 8 Canadian areas are the multipliers. Stations outside of Canada and the US add to one's QSO total but do not count as multipliers. See the CQP website at URL cqp.org for more details.

John Brodie VA7XB made his station available for the event and opened it to members of the SARC Contest Group. From reports received they had a lot of fun and made some good contacts to boot, even a pile-up with California stations looking to collect the extra points (multipliers) for contacting a VE/VA station.

Photo Right and Left: Howard Ticzon VA7HTZ teamed up with other SARC members to sharpen his skills and show the VE7SAR flag in the California QSO Party



Photo Left:

Joe Zaccaria VE7TOL getting into the swing of the California QSO party

Photo Right: Joe VE7TOL watches his rate climb dramatically as he changes from search & pounce to "Run" mode on this, his first experience with N1MM logging software



Actor Tim Allen Gets His Ham Ticket

For Real!

September 30, 2014

Actor and comedian Tim Allen now not only plays an Amateur Radio operator on television, he *is* one! Allen, whose real name is Timothy Alan Dick, got his new call sign, KK6OTD, on September 4, but did not release the news until this week.

In his weekly ABC comedy TV show “Last Man Standing,” Allen’s character Mike Baxter, is supposed to be KA0XTT, and the show has featured ham radio in some episodes. “Last Man Standing” producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, told ARRL that the agreement with Allen was that “we would not publicize his license until he approved it.”

Allen revealed to Tom Medlin, W5KUB, for one of Medlin’s webcasts that he had passed his Technician license test but did not mention his call sign, Amodeo said. “We arranged for Tom Medlin to do a ‘surprise’ interview’ with the [ARRL VEC] VE team that administered Tim’s test,” Amodeo said. “They are Rob, AA6RA; Tim, N6QJ, and Julian, N3JF. ARRL VEC Staffer, Amanda Grimaldi, KB1VUV, helped us arrange the test.” More than 2 dozen members of the “Last Man Standing” crew – and now Allen, its star – have been inspired by the show’s Amateur Radio component to get licensed.



"the show has featured ham radio in some episodes"



On September 28, the K6H “Hollywood Hamnado” special event station was on the air, with “Last Man Standing” crew members at the helm. The Southern California-based PAPA Repeater System, in association with the Broadcast Employees Amateur Radio Society (BEARS) and Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Service (DEARS) sponsored the special event. Amodeo said K6H went very well. “We had about 35 operators and guests on Stage 9 here at CBS Studio Center” he told ARRL. “All enjoyed being on the set of ‘Last Man Standing.’ Naturally, we brought in breakfast (bagels and donuts), lunch (sandwiches), and, at wrap, pizza. The feeling was like a Field Day and a mini Hamvention.” Amodeo said that all six K6H stations had “continuous contacts from start to finish.” Most of the K6H event and several interview segments have been posted on Medlin’s website at URL <http://www.w5kub.com>.

~ ARRL.org

November 2014

Nominations for...

“Amateur(s) of the Year”

"your Executive is asking for nominations of those deemed worthy of special recognition by the membership"

It has become tradition every year at our Christmas Party, that we acknowledge those SARC members who have provided extraordinary service to the club or made outstanding contributions to amateur radio. This year is no different, and your Executive is asking for nominations of those deemed worthy of special recognition by the membership.

Please send your nominations for “Amateur(s) of the Year” award along with a few words to explain the reasons for your choice to sarc@ve7sar.net.

Here is a list of past recipients:

2007 Anton James VE7SSD

2008 John Brodie VA7XB

2009 Gary Skett VE7AS, Ken Clarke VE7BC, Kjeld Frederiksen VE7GP

2010 Fred Orsetti VE7IO, Bill Gipps VE7XS, Hiu Yee VE7YXG

2011 John Schouten VE7TI, Bill Little VE7ZBL, Susan Eshelmann VE7IIE

2012 Nicole Stopa VE7PET, Arthur Siemens VE7SIE, Dave Cameron VE7LTD, Steve Coleman VE7MAN, Jim Smith VE7FO

2013 Jinty Reid VA7JMR, Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV, Brett Garrett VE7GM



Price of 70cm handhelds fall

With a thud so loud other manufacturers are bound to take notice, the cost of 430 MHz FM handhelds seems to be falling, with one 5 watt transceiver available for under \$20 CAN

The **Baofeng BF-888S** 400-470 MHz handheld is being sold on eBay for just \$16 CAN with FREE shipping! The rig is limited to just 16 channels within that frequency range but at that price it would seem to offer great scope for experimentation on 430 MHz. It comes complete with a battery charger, wrist loop and a belt clip.

For you newbies out there, SARC has an operational repeater directly tied to the 2m repeater so this is a usable transceiver for our system. There are many other local repeaters on this band and the noise floor is generally lower. You will have no problem filling the 16 channels available.

[BF-888S for \\$16](#)



Promote Your Special Interest

At the October 8th SARC general meeting, the suggestion was made that, in light of members' expressed interests, SARC should consider forming "special interest groups" for CW and satellites. The only role of the Executive with these groups would be to make members known to each other and to encourage and assist where needed; otherwise the groups would be informal but self-regulated and simply provide progress reports to the club Executive and membership periodically.

CW Group

At the September meeting, six members indicated that they would like to learn CW. As expressed by Jim VE7FO at this meeting and by Brett VE7GM in his October Communicator article, a variety of CW learning/practice aids are available on the Internet and contest opportunities for beginners exist on HF. Nowadays formal instruction is not the best way to learn CW so there is no longer a need for CW training classes as was typically done in past years. Brett in his article emphasized that the most important element for mastering CW is self-motivation, as only diligent and continual practice will get you to 15 wpm, probably the minimum required for serious use. It was suggested that those who wish to learn CW should form a mutual support group, encourage and work with each other to reinforce the learning challenge. Once the group is organized, it will be up to you! So...if you would like to be part of this group, send an email to sarc@ve7sar.net and we will put you in touch with others who have expressed the same interest.

Satellite Group

The excitement of John VE7TI's contact with the International Space Station (ISS) was felt by everyone involved with Field Day 2014. Along these lines, it has long been a personal objective of mine to become active in communication via satellite and, ultimately, EME (earth-moon-earth or "moonbounce"). To this end, a couple of years ago, I started collecting equipment to get me there but the objective was interrupted by a house move and career changes. Others in the club, I understand, have similar interests so the idea was born to form a small group with an interest in pursuing this fascinating aspect of amateur radio. If you have a similar interest and would like to be part of the group to share expertise and pursue the technical challenges, please let me know and we will get started. A worthy objective would be to have a satellite station, fully equipped with suitable radios, high gain antennas, azimuth/elevation rotators and tracking software ready to go for Field Day 2015. If you would like to be part of this group, please send an email to sarc@ve7sar.net.



"SARC should consider forming 'special interest groups' for CW and satellites"

And, while we're at it... How about other Special Interest Groups?

Do you have an interest in anything special? If so, why don't you form your own special interest group and pursue it? For example, Joe VE7TOL initiated a group (not within SARC but the idea is the same) to promote "Raspberry PI" applications. How about APRS, or IOTA or SOTA or RDF or SDR or whatever?

APRS = automatic packet reporting system

SDR = Software Defined Radio

IOTA = Islands on the Air

SOTA = Summits on the Air

ARDF = Amateur Radio Direction Finding

November 2014



QRM

...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com for inclusion in this column.*

Advanced Amateur Radio Course

The Delta Amateur Radio Society will be holding an advanced radio course starting in November 2014. As the advanced course is far more intense than the basic course I would advise all interested hams to please read the page regarding the advanced course on our website.

http://deltaamateurradio.com/wp/?page_id=402

You may register on the website and an early bird special does apply. Any questions feel free to email:
gi@deltaamateurradio.com

We Have A New Patch!

Over the summer we received our order of 100 club patches. These are suitable for sewing on a jacket, cap or your jammies, so you can proudly display your support for the club.

The price is \$4 each or three for \$10 and they can be picked up at the meeting or a Friday morning breakfast.



Amateur Radio Satellite Stamp Issued

LituanicaSAT-1 is one of the two first Lithuanian satellites in space. The satellite was launched from the International Space Station to space on February 28, 2014 by JAXA astronaut Koichi Wakata and provided a repeater in space for several months until its orbit declined and it re-entered the atmosphere. The mission is considered a complete success by its team of engineers.

I hope you might help us to share the news about a new educational video about Amateur Radio. It is free to view and share and can be found here:

<http://youtu.be/bcfJUjcSEz8>

It has been created for anyone who wishes to encourage youth and adults to explore the world of Ham Radio and it also can be found on the home page of the project website at www.RadioQRV.com. Thank you for your consideration –73 Mike

I am a new member and have thought of something that I would like to ask. I am wondering if I could have a paragraph written in the next communicator offering a small contest.

This is my proposal:

I will bring one small stack of blank index cards to the next meeting. All people who would like to enter will put the make and model of a handheld radio that they particularly like onto the card also their name or callsign and, hopefully why they like the model they have picked. The radio should currently be available on the market as new. The cards need to be filled out before the end of the meeting so that all entrants can get put in a hat and drawn at the end.

I live on a hobby farm so will bring one dozen brown eggs for one prize and a frozen vacuum packed chicken as the other prize.

Basically I plan to get the radio that gets the most attention on the entries (around Christmas).

~ Alastair



Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio

A man is stranded on a desert island, all alone for ten years. One day, he sees a speck in the horizon. He thinks to himself, "It's not a ship." The speck gets a little closer and he thinks, "It's not a boat." The speck gets even closer and he thinks, "It's not a raft." Then, out of the surf comes this gorgeous blonde woman, wearing a wet suit and scuba gear. She comes up to the guy and says, "How long has it been since you've had a cigarette?" "Ten years!", he says.

She reaches over and unzips a waterproof pocket on her left sleeve and pulls out a pack of fresh cigarettes.

He takes one, lights it, takes a long drag, and says, "Man, oh man! Is that good!"

Then she asked, "How long has it been since you've had a drink of whiskey?"

He replies, "Ten years!"

She reaches over, unzips her waterproof pocket on her right sleeve, pulls out a flask and gives it to him.

He takes a long swig and says, "Wow, that's fantastic!"

Then she starts unzipping a longer zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit and she says to him, "And how long has it been since you've had some real fun?"

And the man replies, "Wow! Don't tell me that you've got a contest rig in there!"



*How NOT to put up an antenna at Field Day
[click on the photo]*

Top Signs That You May Need An Elmer: By Jeffrey S. King, N1DJS

An **Elmer** is the guy you go to, to ask questions about topics in Ham Radio that you don't understand. In that vein, you know it's time for you to find an Elmer if...

- Your friend tells you he has a new two meter radio and you figure one of the meters must be for SWR and the other for power out.
- You hear a conversation on the low bands about CW and you think they're referring to the cold war.
- You hear someone sign this is N8XXX mobile-4 and you think it's because he has three other radios
- You hear that someone won a 40 meter radio at a hamfest and you wonder how they're going to get something that large in their house.
- You build a Morse code key out of Plexiglas and can't figure out why it won't key your radio.
- You think the difference between short wave and long wave is the speed at which you move your wrist back and forth.
- You won't use a repeater because you've heard that using a repeater could be dangerous. You've heard an alligator could get you.
- You think a collinear antenna can only be used with two amplifiers.
- You think FM is the modulation type that came after EM, DM, CM, BM and AM.
- You wouldn't mind getting into packet radio but no matter how much you practice you can't get the hang of sending those beeps and braps with your keyer.
- You wonder what sound a short wave makes and why anyone would want to listen to one.
- You think the repeater owner would be a lot happier if instead of talking about his cavities he just went to the dentist and got them filled.

November 2014



SEPAR Report

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



"...SEPAR was well represented at this year's annual City of Surrey volunteer appreciation dinner."

October is typically emergency communications month beginning with the National Simulated Emergency Test (SET) taking place on October 4th. SEPAR did not participate in the national SET exercise due to other commitments during the month.

Shakeout BC

We opened the radio room and operated the communications trailer in the Shakeout BC exercise on Thursday October 16th. We took check-ins from stations around the Metro area on VHF using 146.550 simplex and 147.36+ the Surrey repeater. The objective here was to test our ability to establish communications with stations in the area and set up a network of emergency communications. Logs will be kept of the stations call, time and locations. This information will be very useful as it can then be plotted on a map showing which communities have amateur radio communications.

In addition to the radio room and trailer the kits at the RCMP offices were also pressed into service. Volunteers went to the RCMP District offices and operated the VHF radios located in each office. This was the first time that this equipment has been activated so we hope to learn from this experience (*photo top right*).



Fraser River Ferry Exercise

Ron Casey, VE7VTA, and the RCMP are planning an exercise to test communications across the Fraser River at New Westminster and Coquitlam. Plans are to have the trailer as a command center with amateur radio being used to handle messages.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

SEPAR was well represented at this year's annual City of Surrey volunteer appreciation dinner. Marcy, VE7JT, Don, VA7GL, Deme, VE7CRT, Jay, VE7KC and Alan, VA7BIT received their 5 year service pins. Special recognition for SEPAR service went to Marcy, Don, Ron and Peter for their contributions to training and community events (*photo left*).

The presentation was a guest speaker from China who spoke on their emergency response structure. China experiences a lot of natural disasters so they have developed well coordinated response teams. I did not notice any amateur radio being used.

~Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator
ve7io@separ.net



Arbutus Ridge Emergency Radio Station VA7ARE

Located just south of Duncan, BC is the community of Arbutus Ridge. With a population of approximately 1400 this retirement community is home to both a championship golf course and a seismically secure emergency program specific amateur radio station. The community sponsored facility was built by three long-time resident volunteers who are all Industry Canada licenced amateur radio operators. The call sign for the station is VA7ARE

The idea to construct an amateur radio station for the community was literally born on a napkin over coffee one day in March 2011. With most development aspects of this strata community being tightly controlled, the notion of erecting a 15m antenna support tower and locating a non-traditional building within the community was not initially supported... but when the value of the station was explained, the community eagerly embraced the idea of having access to a backup communications facility. The station is housed within a converted 6m shipping container that has been fully insulated and paneled. It has electric baseboard heating, custom built workstations for three radio operators and a work bench for maintenance. In addition to being connected to grid power, backup power for the facility is derived from two large diesel generators and a battery bank.

While the community purchased the shipping container, most of the building materials, cabling, antennas, radios, computers and related infrastructure were all donated to support the project.

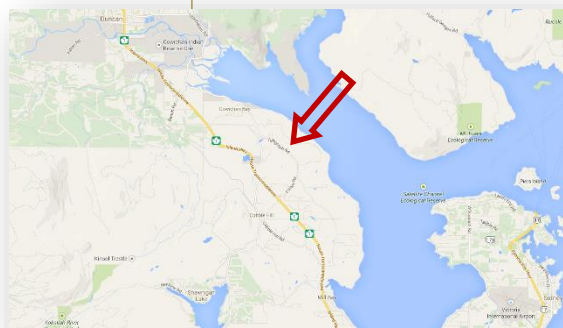
Even though the station itself is tucked into an inconspicuous corner of the community, the station antennas are ideally positioned giving them clear line-of-sight in all directions. The station is capable of operating on most amateur radio spectrum including VHF, UHF, 1.25 or 220 MHz and HF on 10 through 80m. In addition the station has digital messaging capability to pass traffic on VHF, UHF and HF via HF Pactor.

Given the seismically sound nature of this very well equipped amateur radio station, it has the potential to serve both the residents of Arbutus Ridge and the surrounding communities within the Cowichan Valley Regional District and its Emergency Program.

The builders and operators of amateur radio station VA7ARE are Cathy McPHERSON (VA7FRA), Ken WARD (VA7KYZ and Bob BARTLETT (VE7CPO).

Contact Ken WARD for additional details at 250-743-3846 or wardken@shaw.ca

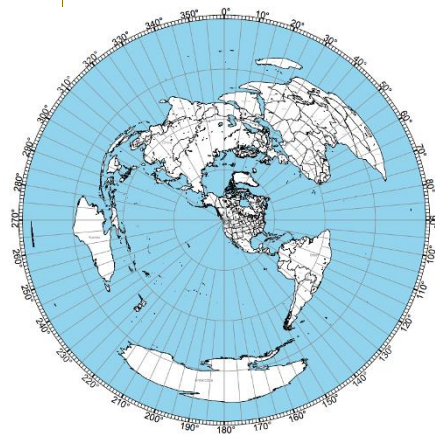
Radio station VA7ARE was the net control station for CrossBorder 2014 – the largest amateur radio exercise ever launched in the Pacific Northwest.



Tech Tip

How do I know what direction to point my beam to work a specific area?" (I should be so lucky as to have this problem, but...) Some logging programs (e.g. N1MM) will give you a beam direction in compass "degrees from North".

An easy and simpler alternative is an azimuthal map. You can print one for your location for free here: <http://ns6t.net/azimuth/azimuth.html>



November 2014



Radio-Active

Jinty Reid VA7JMR



**Geoff Higginson
VA7HIG**

Geoff was born in White Rock and attended the Crescent Park Elementary School and then White Rock Junior Secondary, finally graduating from Semiahmoo Secondary. He enjoyed sports and played in high school soccer and basketball teams, reaching BC Championship level in basketball. In the school band he played the trumpet and he also plays the guitar. When he was 7 years of age he was given a crystal radio set and his ability in building this set showed an inclination in tinkering with electronics.

He tried different antennas such as using clothes lines and water pipes as well as trees. At the age of 10 he studied an old radio amateur licensing book and practiced taking radios apart. However, once in high school, high school sports became a greater priority and amateur radio took a back burner for a while.

In 1977 at the age of 18, he attended Douglas College where he studied criminology. This prompted him into applying to the RCMP but alas due to his eyesight his application failed. Undaunted, Geoff changed direction and began teaching swimming in his back yard pool and working as a lifeguard to earn money for college. In 1979 he attended Western Washington University in Bellingham, where he took recreation and business, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1982. He worked as a trainer in aquatics, then worked for 3 years with the Canadian Red Cross Society as a Program Coordinator in first aid.

Geoff has travelled abroad to Greece, where his focus was the architecture, and he has been to the Caribbean, and travelled throughout the U.S.A. and Canada extensively.

Eventually Geoff grew tired of working in an office writing first aid manuals so once again he changed direction and worked as an apprentice in construction in Ottawa, in brick and stone masonry.

In 1989 Geoff relocated back to Surrey B.C. where he worked with

aggregate machinery for 2 years and then returned to masonry work in Whistler and West Vancouver. He taught masonry crafts at Kamloops Thompson Rivers University. Now he is a masonry instructor with Trowel Trades Training Association in North Surrey.

It was while working in the Minneapolis area that he met his future wife Heather whom he later married in Canada. They now have two children; Jacob aged 7 and David aged 5, and live in White Rock. It was when he heard about the tornado that hit Edmonton in the mid 1980's that he saw the importance of using radio in emergency situations. This reignited his interest in amateur radio but it was not until 2010 that Geoff took the Amateur Radio Licensing course from Gary Skett and passed it with honours.

Geoff is a member of SARC and RAC. His major interest is communicating with other hams. He uses a portable 5-watt, 2-metre ICOM T70A with a magmount antenna on a tin tray as he lives in a basement suite at present but wants to get on HF in the future. He would like to become involved with SEPAR but lacks the time as his young family is his first priority.

Geoff has a passion for his work as a mason and enjoys training others. He is enthusiastic in many areas in his life and has a strong Christian faith and seeks the truth in all areas of life. Taking care of his family is very important to him and this includes his mother who needs his support.

His wife Heather describes him as honest and as having a great deal of integrity. In his vision for the future he wants to build his own self-contained home and have a proper radio shack with solar power and be off the grid. He hopes Heather will eventually get her ham radio license and is teaching his wife and his children radio protocols on GRMS (walkie talkies).

~ Jinty Reid VA7JMR



November Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar					1 Contest: ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)
2 Contest: ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)	3	4 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	5	6	7 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	8 Contest: WAE (RTTY)
9 Contest: WAE (RTTY)	10	11 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	12 SARC General Meeting	13	14 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	15 Contest: ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)
16 Contest: ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)	17	18 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	19	20	21 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	22
23/30 30th Contest: CQ WW DX (CW)	24	25 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	26 1900 SARC Exec Meeting	27	28 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	29 Contest: CQ WW DX (CW)

November 2014

**QRT**

John Brodie VA7XB

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

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SECRETARYRob Gilchrist VE7CZV
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(Communicator Editor & Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

**SARC Photos
Web Albums**

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

The Navel Gazing Continues

Lately we have been engaged in some introspection around the question of what SARC currently stands for, and more importantly what should be the future direction of the club.

For example, does SARC have a valid role to play in emergency communication, or should we simply consider that the social and technical aspects of amateur radio are most important to our members? Is our traditional role changing in light of modern technological trends that facilitate other, more convenient forms of communication? How does SARC's mission integrate with that of our affiliated organization, SEPAR?

At the September 10th meeting Bill VE7XS moderated a discussion around these critical questions with the hope that we might stimulate some feedback from the membership and start to move the club in another direction or at least redefine its purpose. Ideas put forth on September 10th to help build the volunteer base for club activities and leadership positions included job shadowing, posting job descriptions, encouraging more social activities and written questionnaires to identify members' interests.

One important conclusion was that all the preparations for Field Day appear to be viewed as an important stimulus for members' involvement and training throughout the year leading up to FD.

The question of SARC's role in emergency communication was discussed at length with the conclusion that whereas the social and technical aspects of amateur radio should be given high priority within SARC, the club should continue to have a strong role in Em-Com, consistent with SARC's Constitution and Bylaws.

Later, in a follow-up email questionnaire - prepared on the assumption that some

members might have felt reluctant to speak out - we asked the questions in a different way:

1. Please tell us what you like best about SARC;
2. Please tell us what you don't like, or would like changed.
3. Please identify the 3 top priorities for activities/topics you would like presented or sponsored by SARC (other than what we are already doing).

The answers to question #1 were invariably favourable: members appear to be mostly content with the general direction of the club, support given to the membership, the leadership and the technical and social aspects. Question #2 brought forth a repeated suggestion that there should be more "basic" level presentations for the beginners. Others commented that the business meetings were too long and that the club has become too "competitive".

Responses to question #3 reiterated the suggestion that we offer more topics for the more "technically challenged" hams, that there be more project construction workshops (e.g. transmitters and receivers), that we initiate CW training, and that we consider presentations on satellite communication, cell phone operation, digital VHF/UHF, digital repeaters, installing a radio on a boat.

These are all good ideas and your Executive will be discussing in the coming months how we can implement at least some of them.

Thanks to all those members who took the time to provide thoughtful feedback. We conclude that major changes to the club's purpose are not warranted. Rather some relatively minor tweaking is what is needed. We shall work on that.

~ John VA7XB

The November Meeting

On Wednesday, November 12 at 1900 hrs we will meet at the EMBC PREOC. After the business portion of the meeting we will have a presentation on the Raspberry Pi.

You may have heard about the Raspberry Pi microcomputer. These are very inexpensive computers that were developed to allow students and others to learn and experiment. Joe Zaccaria (VE7TOL) will give us a basic level review of what the Raspberry Pi is and some examples of how it can be used, both in and out of Ham Radio. Do you know the difference between a Raspberry Pi and an Arduino ? If not, Come and find out!



You're Invited...

SARC Christmas Party

Where: Kalmar Restaurant, 8076 King George Boulevard

When: December 6, 2014 Time: 11:30 am until 2 pm

SARC members and guests are cordially invited to attend

SARC members and guests: \$25 per person

Come and join us for: roast turkey and all the trimmings, salad bar, with apple crisp and/or cheese cake for dessert. Vegetarian option is lasagna. Tea & coffee.

Awards and door prizes will be part of the event.

RSVP to jinty.reid@gmail.com by November 25th



Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs at the
Emergency Mgmt BC
PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 hrs
Kalmar Family
Restaurant at
King George & 81st
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

4th Tuesday of each
month, 1900-2100 hrs
14923—64th Ave, next
to Firehall #9, Surrey.

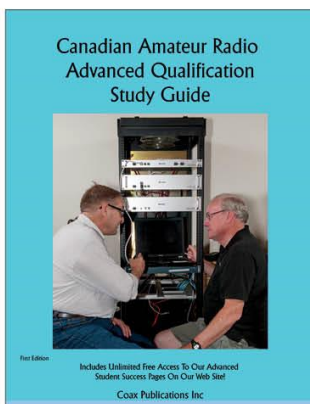
SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7KC Stdbby	Drew VA7DRW Brett VE7GM Stdbby
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Stdbby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager VE7CZV@separs.net		

We would like to welcome these sponsors to the Communicator. Please consider their products and services and say you "saw it in the Communicator."

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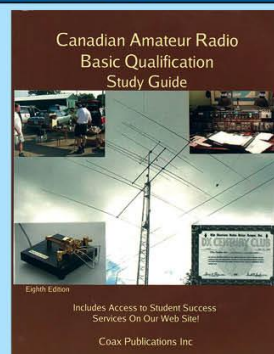
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